

said oligonucleotide does not comprise the iron response element or the 3' untranslated region of the histone mRNA, wherein said molecular interaction site is identified by a method comprising:

comparing the nucleotide sequence of said RNA of a selected organism with the nucleotide sequences of a plurality of nucleic acids from different taxonomic species;

identifying at least one sequence region which is conserved among said plurality of nucleic acids and said RNA of a selected organism;

determining whether said conserved region has secondary structure; and

for said conserved region having secondary structure, identifying said secondary structure.

43. (Amended) The oligonucleotide of claim 35 further comprising comparing said RNA of a selected organism to paralogous nucleic acids.

51. (Amended) An oligonucleotide comprising a molecular interaction site that is present in the RNA of a selected organism and in the RNA of at least one additional organism, wherein said molecular interaction site serves as a binding site for at least one molecule that when bound to said molecular interaction site modulates the expression of said RNA in said selected organism, wherein said oligonucleotide does not comprise the iron response element or the 3' untranslated region of the histone mRNA, wherein said molecular interaction site is identified by a method comprising:

comparing the nucleotide sequence of said target nucleic acid with the nucleotide sequences of a plurality of nucleic acids from different taxonomic species, wherein said nucleotide sequence of said RNA of a selected organism is determined by assembling a plurality of expressed sequence tags;

identifying at least one sequence region which is conserved among said plurality of nucleic acids and said RNA of a selected organism;

determining whether said conserved region has secondary structure; and

for said conserved region having secondary structure, identifying said secondary structure.

#### **REMARKS**

Claims 27-29, 35-41 and 43-51 are pending in the present application. Claims 35, 43 and 51